

Ryan Hreljac visited one of the African communities where a new well was drilled.

# Ryan's Well:

## Clean Water for Kids

Imagine you're hot and thirsty. You check the fridge, but there's no juice or soda. Oh well, there's always water. The magic of modern plumbing and water treatment will once again provide you with that life-giving necessity: clean water.

You are among the lucky people of the world. When Ryan Hreljac was 6 years old, he was shocked to learn that millions of kids around the world aren't so lucky. In many parts of the world, women and children have to walk miles to fill buckets with water from streams and lakes. Often, this water is contaminated with diseases and dirt. Each year in Africa, hundreds of thousands of children die from diseases they get from drinking dirty water. Ryan decided he had to do something.

He began to raise money to build a well for an African village. He started small, doing extra chores at home, to raise \$70. Ryan met his first goal in four months. When he realized more money was needed, he worked harder. His next goal was \$2,000. As other people heard of Ryan's work, they began to help him.

This all began in January 1998. Since then, Ryan has helped raise more than \$1 million to bring clean water to over 200,000 people in seven African countries and beyond. This money has paid for new wells to be drilled for many villages. This gives the people in the village a clean, close water supply. The wells provide clean, safe drinking water for people living in the village. The wells also provide clean water for watering vegetable gardens. Women and children no longer have to walk long distances to get water. This means that more children can go to school and get an education. A new well means a healthier, brighter future for everyone in the community!



"There is nothing wrong with change, if it is in the right direction."

—Winston Churchill, former British Prime Minister, Nobel Peace Prize winner



A mother gathers clean water from a new well in her village in Africa.